

School Health Screening Rules and Regulations: Project Update for Stakeholders #8 October 1, 2012

Proposed regulations for School Health Screening are posted and available on the State Regulations Website: <http://www.sos.ne.gov/rules-and-regs/regtrack/index.cgi>

The regulations of interest are found under Health and Human Services in the first index column, and are cited at Title 172 Chapters 3 and 7.

Chapter 7 contains the screening material, plus the physical exam and visual eval requirements are transferred into “new” Chapter 7 from their “old” home in Chapter 3. School Health professionals and others will take note of changes proposed to Chapter 3, which detail immunization requirements for school.

In the school health program, we have for some months now been making information available on the proposed regulations. The link, <http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Documents/School%20Karsting%20Screening%20Handout.pdf> will take interested readers to a short powerpoint presentation available on our school health website. Used for an August 2012 “Back to School” telehealth education session for school health professionals, the handout provides an overview of key points.

On behalf of the School Health Screening Rules and Regulations Steering Committee, our hope has long been that stakeholders across Nebraska will feel engaged and involved in the rule and regulations work to improve the quality and consistency of school health screening practices statewide. We have attempted at every juncture to true to our initial principles, that our resulting work would be evidence-based and reflect best practices of contemporary public health and pediatrics; screening requirements should reflect relevant priorities for child health and learning; screening requirements would be achievable for schools and not represent an unreasonable burden; and that our work where possible should reflect culturally and linguistically appropriate standards and practices.

School Health Screening Stakeholders statewide are invited to review and comment on the resulting work, now open for public comment, until close of business on Thursday, November 1, 2012. See instructions for doing so at <http://www.sos.ne.gov/rules-and-regs/regtrack/index.cgi> There will be an opportunity to enter comment directly during the public hearing, as well.

If you have questions about the proposed rules and regulations that you would like to explore outside of the public comment arena, you may contact either Kathy Karsting at kathy.karsting@nebraska.gov, or Carol Tucker at carol.tucker@nebraska.gov and we will be glad to try to assist you!